

# Resurrection of the Genus *Leptomantis*, with Description of a New Genus to the Family Rhacophoridae (Amphibia: Anura)

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**Abstract** Genus *Rhacophorus* Kuhl and Van Hasselt, 1 822 is one of the most diverse genera of the family Rhacophoridae, and its taxonomy of genus *Rhacophorus* faces major challenges because of rapidly described new species and complex interspecies relations. In this study, we investigate the generic taxonomy within the genus *Rhacophorus* based on 1 972 bp of mitochondrial genes (12S rRNA, tRNA-val and 16S rRNA), containing 102 sequences from 58 species. The results reveal three well-supported and highly diverged matrilineages that correspond with morphological characteristics and geographic distribution. Accordingly, we consider these three lineages as distinct genera: *Rhacophorus sensu stricto*, resurrected genus *Leptomantis* Peters, 1867, and the genus *Zhangixalus* **gen. nov.**

**Keywords** *Rhacophorus*, taxonomic revision, tree frog, *Zhangixalus* **gen. nov.**

## 1. Introduction

Old World Treefrogs, family Rhacophoridae, comprise 416 species in 18 recognized genera (Frost, 2018), of which 78 species in 12 genera are found in southern and southwestern China (AmphibiaChina, 2018). Of these, genus *Rhacophorus* Kuhl and Van Hasselt, 1 822 contains 92 species, distributed widely across China, Japan, India, and from the Philippines to Sulawesi (Frost, 2018; O'Connell *et al.*, 2018). Genus *Leptomantis* Peters, 1867 was established for the species *L. bimaculata* Peters, 1867, and Ahl (1931) subsequently synonymized it as a junior synonym of *Rhacophorus*. Later, Dubois

(1987) made *Leptomantis* a subgenus of *Rhacophorus*, and divided subgenus *Rhacophorus* into ten species groups. Iskandar and Colijn (2000) subsequently raised *Leptomantis* to full genus rank, but Harvey *et al.* (2002) again synonymized *Leptomantis* with *Rhacophorus*, which Frost (2018) accepted. Fei (2012) established *Huangixalus* based on the type species *Rhacophorus translineatus* Wu, 1977, but treated as synonym of *Rhacophorus* by Frost (2018).

Recently, many new species of the genus *Rhacophorus* were revealed by virtue of molecular phylogenetic results (Matsui *et al.*, 2013; Nguyen *et al.*, 2017; Streicher *et al.*, 2014). In addition, several phylogenetic works have shed new light on the generic phylogeny of *Rhacophorus*, which constantly recovered as three well-supported lineages on the basis of molecular phylogenetic trees, although their phylogenetic relationships remain unresolved (Chan *et al.*, 2018; Li *et al.*, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013; O'Connell *et al.*, 2018; Pan *et al.*, 2017).

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The three major clades show deep divergence with each other. The morphological characteristics of tree frog species within their respective clades differ substantially (Li *et al.*, 2012; Yang, 2018). A clade that contains species from the Malay Peninsula to the Philippines agrees with the diagnosis of *Leptomantis*. On the basis of molecular phylogenetic results, morphological comparisons and distribution patterns, we recognize the validity of the genus *Leptomantis*. Additionally, resolved relationships require the further splitting of *Rhacophorus* and the erection of a new genus.

## 2. Material and Methods

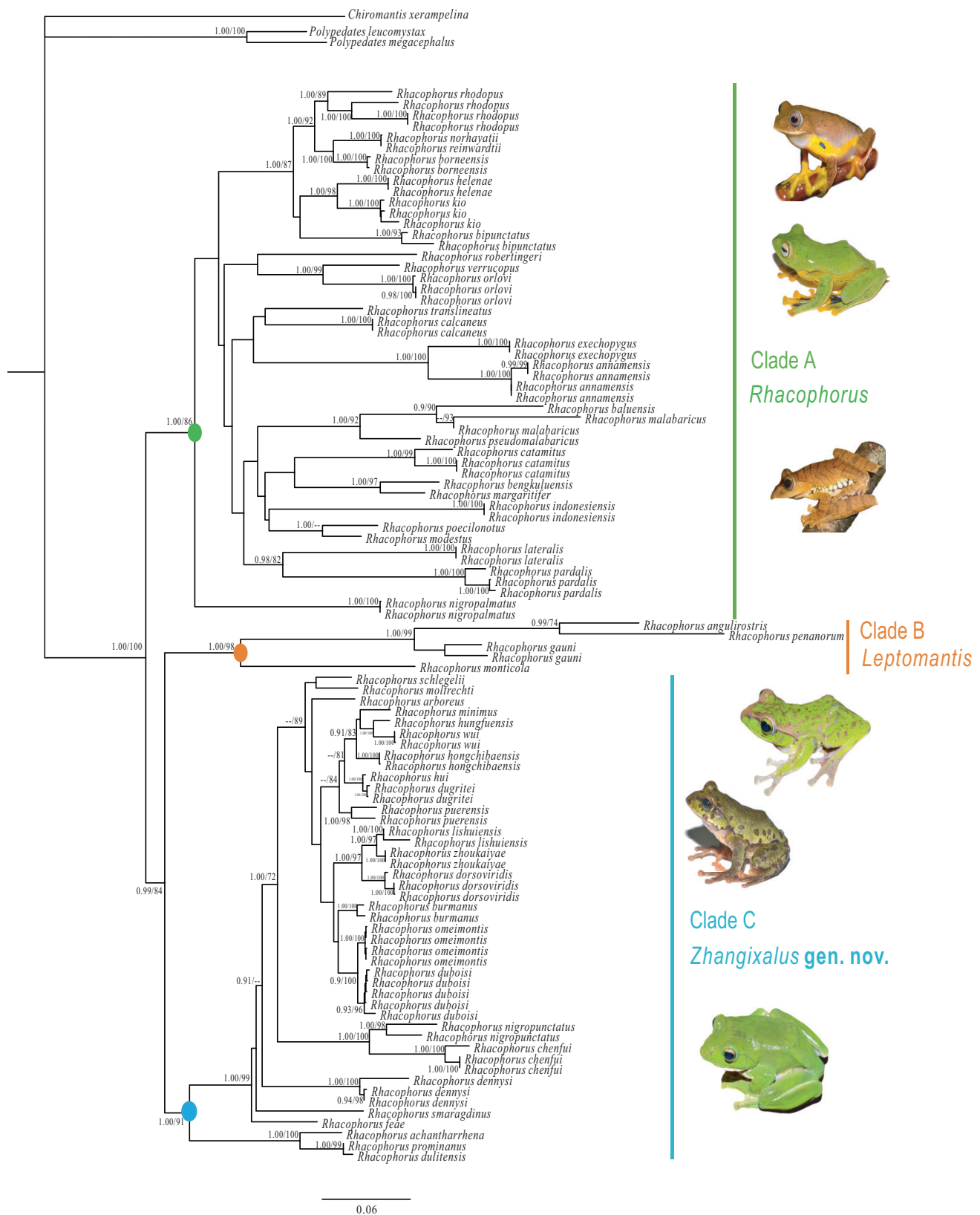
**2.1. Morphological characters and distribution collection** Morphological characters used and their measurement methods followed Fei *et al.* (2009), morphological characters used as below: body size, snout-vent length (SVL); dermal folds along limbs, dermal folds or ridges along outer edge of forearm and tarsus; supracloacal fold, skin folds above cloaca; tarsal projection, a dermal projection on tibiotarsal articulation; upper eyelid projection, conical projection on upper eyelid. Morphological data of genera were obtained from previous studies (Abraham *et al.*, 2013; Biju *et al.*, 2010; Boulenger, 1882; Dubois, 1987; Fei *et al.*, 2009; Jiang *et al.*, 2016; Peters, 1867). The morphological descriptions, phylogenetic assignments, and distributions of species of *Rhacophorus* were based on original descriptions and the following subsequent literature: Anderson (1871), Biju *et al.* (2013), Boulenger (1896), Das and Haas (2005), Dehling (2008; 2015), Dehling and Grafe (2008), Hamidy and Kurniati (2015), Harvey *et al.* (2002), Hertwig *et al.* (2012), Inger (1954; 1966; 1999), Li *et al.* (2012), Malkmus and Brühl (2002), Matsui and Panha (2006), Matsui *et al.* (2013), Mo *et al.* (2008), Nguyen *et al.* (2017), Ohler and Delorme (2006), Onn and Ahmad (2009), Orlov *et al.* (2001, 2008, 2010, 2012), Ostroshabov *et al.* (2013), Rowley *et al.* (2012), and Streicher *et al.* (2014).

**2.2. Phylogenetic analyses** We downloaded 102 sequences for 55 species of *Rhacophorus* and three outgroups from GenBank. *Chiromantis xerampelina* Peters, 1854, *Polypedates megacephalus* Hallowell, 1861 and *Polypedates leucomystax* (Gravenhorst, 1829) were selected as outgroups for phylogenetic analyses (Li *et al.*, 2008, 2009). The respective gene partitions were 12S rRNA, tRNA-val and 16S rRNA (1 972 bp alignment totally). Details on specimen voucher, GenBank accession codes and sampling sites were listed in Table S1.

The mitochondrial gene fragments were aligned by using the FasParser software package (Sun, 2017). After initial comparison, we partitioned the data sets and assigned substitution models as suggested by the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) as calculated in PartitionFinder v2.1.1 (Lanfear *et al.*, 2012). This resulted in one partition for the data set with a GTR+I+G substitution model. The Bayesian phylogenetic relationships were conducted using MrBayes v3.2.6 (Ronquist *et al.*, 2012). Two independent runs of Markov Chains for 10 000 000 generations were summarized, and sampled every 100 generations. The first 25 000 sampled trees were discarded as a conservative burn-in and convergence was investigated in Tracer v1.6 (Rambaut *et al.*, 2013). The frequency of nodal resolution, termed a Bayesian posterior probability (BPP), was determined to assess confidence of the topology. Nodes were considered strongly supported when  $BPP \geq 0.95$ . A maximum likelihood (ML) tree was conducted with RAxML v8.0.17 (Stamatakis, 2006) using a GTR+I+G model for our final likelihood search during fast bootstrapping with 1000 pseudoreplicates, bootstrap proportions (BSP) were assessed to test the node support, where nodes with  $BSP \geq 70$  were supported significantly. The alignment was partitioned for each locus.

## 3. Results

The two phylogenetic methods (BI, ML) resolved each major clade with strong support (Figure 1; Figure S1). The genus *Rhacophorus* was recovered to be a monophyletic group with strong support ( $BPP = 1.00$ ;  $BSP = 100$ ); *Rhacophorus* contained three strongly supported clades (Clades A, B, C), that were highly diverged with long basal branch lengths. Detailed content of these clades as follows: Clade A contained the following species: *R. orlovi* Ziegler and Köhler, 2001; *R. calcaneus* Smith, 1924; *R. verrucopus* Huang, 1983; *R. robertingeri* Orlov, Poyarkov, Vassilieva, Ananjeva, Nguyen, Sang, and Geissler, 2012; *R. translineatus* Wu, 1977; *R. annamensis* Smith, 1924; *R. exechopygus* Inger, Orlov, and Darevsky, 1999; *R. baluensis* Inger, 1954; *R. rhodopus* Liu and Hu, 1960; *R. reinwardtii* (Schlegel, 1840); *R. norhayatii* Chan and Grismer, 2010; *R. borneensis* Matsui, Shimada, and Sudin, 2013; *R. bipunctatus* Ahl, 1927; *R. kio* Ohler and Delorme, 2006; *R. helenae* Rowley, Tran, Hoang, and Le, 2012; *R. pardalis* Günther, 1858; *R. malabaricus* Jerdon, 1870; *R. pseudomalabaricus* Vasudevan and Dutta, 2000; *R. lateralis* Boulenger, 1883; *R. nigropalmatus* Boulenger, 1895; *R. bengkuensis* Streicher, Hamidy, Harvey, Anders, Shaney, Kurniawan, and Smith, 2014; *R. margaritifera*



**Figure 1** Phylogenetic relationships of species of *Rhacophorus* based on three mitochondrial genes: 12S rRNA, tRNA-val and 16S rRNA. Circles on nodes correspond to three clades: Clade A (green), Clade B (orange), Clade C (blue). Numbers beside the nodes are given as Bayesian posterior probabilities (BPP) ( $\geq 0.90$  retained)/bootstrap proportions (BSP) for maximum likelihood analyses ( $\geq 70$  retained); ‘--’ represents BPP and BSP lower than 90% and 70, respectively. Photos were taken by Ke JIANG, Cheng LI, Jin-Long REN.

(Schlegel, 1837); *R. modestus* Boulenger, 1920; *R. poecilonotus* Boulenger, 1920; *R. indonesiensis* Hamidy and Kurniati, 2015; *R. catamitus* Harvey, Pemberton, and Smith, 2002 (BPP = 1.00). Among them, *R. rhodopus* from four areas (Longchuan, Lvchun, Mengyang and Medog) formed a well-supported lineage (BPP = 1.00; BSP = 86). *Rhacophorus kio* from Yunnan, China and Vietnam formed a lineage, which was sister to *R. helenae* from southern Vietnam (BPP = 1.00; BSP = 98).

Clade B contained the following species: *R. gauni* (Inger, 1966); *R. penanorum* Dehling, 2008; *R. angulirostris* Ahl, 1927; and *R. monticola* Boulenger, 1896 (BPP = 1.00; BSP = 98). This clade had species widely distributed in maritime Southeast Asia, from Peninsular Malaysia to the Philippines.

Clade C contained the following species: *R. feae* Boulenger, 1893; *R. moltrechti* Boulenger, 1908; *R. duboisi* Ohler, Marquis, Swan, and Grosjean, 2000; *R. omeimontis* (Stejneger, 1924); *R. burmanus* (Andersson, 1939); *R. dorsovirens* Bourret, 1937; *R. zhokaiyae* Pan, Zhang, and Zhang, 2017; *R. lishuiensis* Liu, Wang, and Jiang, 2017; *R. hui* Liu, 1945; *R. dugritei* (David, 1872); *R. hungfuensis* Liu and Hu, 1961; *R. wui* Li, Liu, Chen, Wu, Murphy, Zhao, Wang, and Zhang, 2012; *R. minimus* Rao, Wilkinson, and Liu, 2006; *R. hongchibaensis* Li, Liu, Chen, Wu, Murphy, Zhao, Wang, and Zhang, 2012; *R. puerensis* (He, 1999); *R. schlegelii* (Günther, 1858); *R. arboreus* (Okada and Kawano, 1924); *R. chenfu* Liu, 1945; *R. nigropunctatus* Liu, Hu, and Yang, 1962; *R. dennysi* Blanford, 1881; *R. smaragdinus* (Blyth, 1852); *R. dulitensis* Boulenger, 1892; *R. prominans* Smith,

1924; and *R. achantharrhena* Harvey, Pemberton, and Smith, 2002 (BPP = 1.00). *Rhacophorus zhokaiyae* from Anhui, China and *R. lishuiensis* from Zhejiang, China, formed a well-supported lineage (BPP = 1.00). Previous studies resolved *R. dorsovirens* as the sister-species of *R. zhokaiyae* (Pan *et al.*, 2017), and also was the sister-species of *R. lishuiensis* (Liu *et al.*, 2017). Because our data set included both *R. lishuiensis* and *R. zhokaiyae*, the result indicated that *R. lishuiensis* had closer relationship with *R. zhokaiyae* than *R. dorsovirens* (BPP = 1.00; BSP = 97).

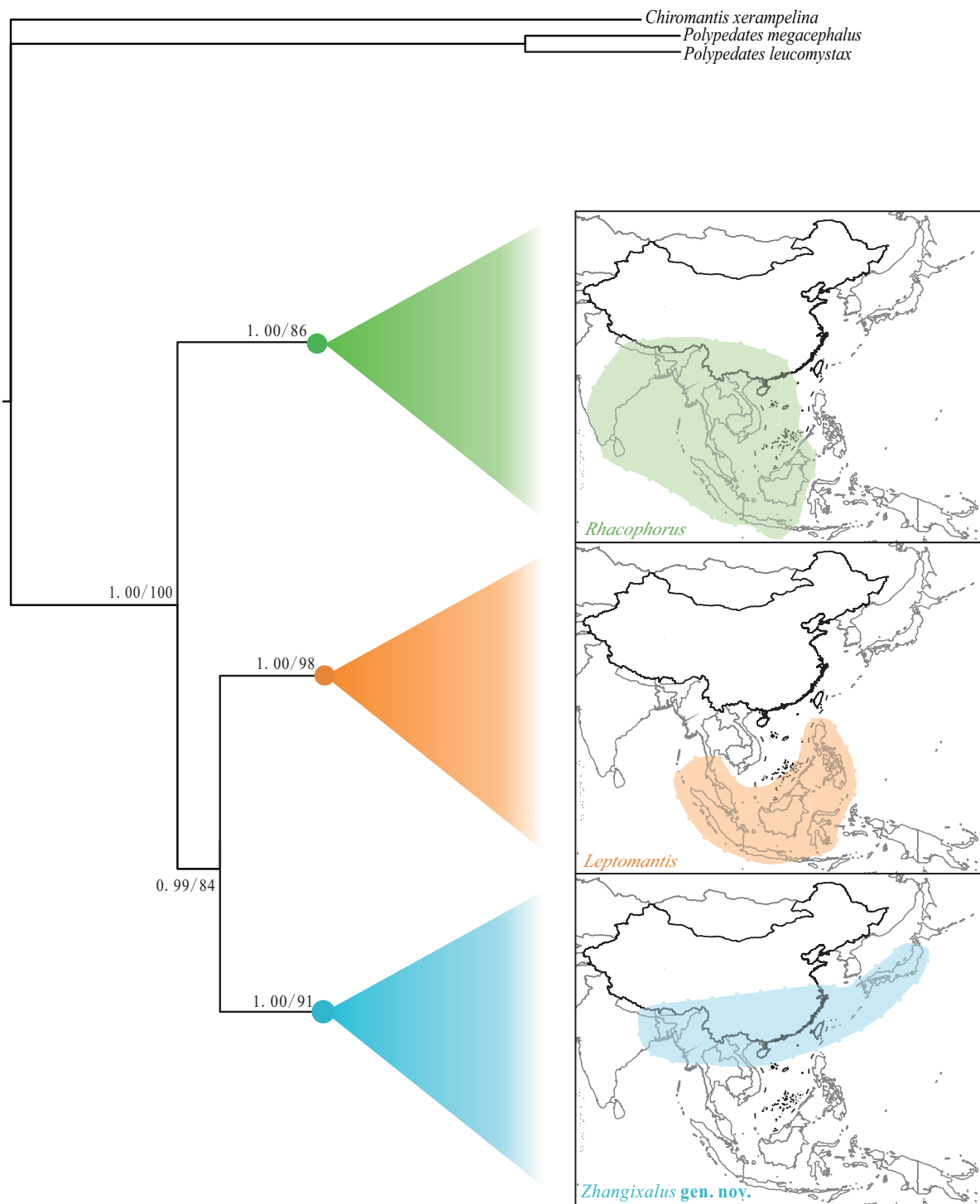
Distinct morphological differences diagnosed the three clades, including body sizes, dermal folds along limbs, tarsal projections, and dorsal coloration (Table 1). Further, differences in distribution among three clades were also obtained. Although Clade A covered all of Southeast Asia, clades B and C were rather isolated (Figure 2).

#### 4. Discussion

Previous studies shed light on the phylogenetic resolution and systematics of Asian tree frogs. The molecular phylogeny of family Rhacophoridae resolved a monophyletic *Rhacophorus* and generally with three major clades (Chan *et al.*, 2018; Li *et al.*, 2008, 2009, 2013). Several studies obtained species delimitations in *Rhacophorus* and all results showed a topology of three clades (Li *et al.*, 2012; O'Connell *et al.*, 2018; Pan *et al.*, 2017). However, the BPP values of root lineages remained low, which suggested uncertain phylogenetic relationships among these three clades. The genus

**Table 1** Comparisons of morphology, distribution patterns, and reproduction models among the genera, *Rhacophorus*, *Leptomantis*, and *Zhangixalus* **gen. nov.**

	<i>Rhacophorus</i>	<i>Leptomantis</i>	<i>Zhangixalus</i> <b>gen. nov.</b>
Body size	moderate or large SVL 30–100 mm, mostly above 40 mm	relatively small SVL 30–80 mm, mostly within 30–50 mm	moderate or large SVL 30–120 mm, mostly above 50 mm
Dermal folds along limbs present		absent	absent
Supracloacal fold	present or not	weak or absent	absent
Tarsal projections	present	present or not	absent
Upper eyelid projection	absent	present or not	absent
Dorsal coloration	variable	light tan or reddish brown	mostly green
Distribution	across Southeast Asia	Maritime Southeast Asia	eastern Asia and northern Indochina
Reproduction models	foam nests or jelly-encapsuled eggs	foam nests	foam nests
Distribution	across Southeast Asia	Maritime Southeast Asia	eastern Asia and northern Indochina
Reproduction models	foam nests or jelly-encapsuled eggs	foam nests	foam nests



**Figure 2** Comparison of distributions among three clades. Circles on nodes correspond to three clades: *Rhacophorus* (green), *Leptomantis* (orange), *Zhangixalus gen. nov.* (blue).

*Leptomantis* was established by Peters (1867) but its taxonomic status has long not been evaluated until now.

Our interpretations of *Rhacophorus* focus mainly on support values of root lineages. The molecular phylogeny depicts three well-supported matrilineages, and

these are consistent with the results of Li *et al.* (2012), although phylogenetic relationships of three clades differ. On the basis of highly supported molecular trees, distinct differences of morphological characteristics, and mostly non-overlapping geographic distribution, it is evident that these three



lineages show deep evolutionary divergences. Therefore, in order to better reflect the phylogenetic relationships and biogeographic history of these frogs, we propose to recognize each of the three lineages as a distinct genus: Clade A represents genus *Rhacophorus sensu stricto*; Clade B is valid genus *Leptomantis*, which consistent with the results of Iskandar and Colijn (2000); and Clade C requires erection of a new genus that we name here. Combined with this study and previous literature as shown before, we currently recognized 39 species in *Rhacophorus sensu stricto*, 14 species in *Leptomantis*, and 36 species in the new genus, respectively.

#### **Taxonomic account**

##### ***Rhacophorus* Kuhl and Van Hasselt, 1822**

**Type species:** *Rhacophorus reinwardtii* (Schlegel, 1840)

**Diagnosis:** (1) Body size relatively moderate or large (SVL 30–100 mm, above 40 mm in most species); (2) presence of intercalary cartilage between terminal and penultimate phalanges of digits; (3) terminal phalanges of finger and toes Y-shaped; (4) tip of the digits expanded into large disks bearing circummarginal grooves; (5) webbed fingers; (6) skin not co-ossified to skull; (7) upper eyelid projections absent, tarsal projections present in most species; (8) dermal folds along forearm or tarsus present; (9) pupil horizontal; (10) iris without “X” shaped pattern; (11) white foam nests or jelly-encapsulated eggs produced by breeding pairs; and (12) distributed mainly in Indochina.

**Phylogenetic definition:** Genus *Rhacophorus* includes species that share a more recent common ancestor with *Rhacophorus reinwardtii* than with *Leptomantis bimaculata* and *Zhangixalus dugritei*.

**Etymology:** The generic name presumably derived from the Greek noun *rhakos*, meaning rag or tatter and the suffix *-phorus*, meaning bearer. The English common name of the genus is “Flying Frogs” or “Parachuting Frogs”, and we suggest the Chinese name “Shu Wa Shu (树蛙属)”. The gender of this genus is masculine.

**Content:** We currently recognized 39 species in the genus *Rhacophorus* as follows: *R. annamensis* Smith, 1924; *R. baluensis* Inger, 1954; *R. barisani* Harvey, Pemberton, and Smith, 2002; *R. bengkulensis* Streicher, Hamidy, Harvey, Anders, Shaney, Kurniawan, and Smith, 2014; *R. bifasciatus* Van Kampen, 1923; *R. bipunctatus* Ahl, 1927; *R. borneensis* Matsui, Shimada, and Sudin, 2013; *R. calcadensis* Ahl, 1927; *R. calcaneus* Smith, 1924; *R. catamitus* Harvey, Pemberton, and Smith, 2002; *R. exechopygus* Inger, Orlov, and Darevsky, 1999; *R. helenae* Rowley, Tran, Hoang, and Le, 2012; *R. hoabinhensis* Nguyen, Pham, Nguyen, Ninh, and Ziegler, 2017; *R. hoanglienensis* Orlov, Lathrop, Murphy, and Ho, 2001;

*R. indonesiensis* Hamidy and Kurniati, 2015; *R. kio* Ohler and Delorme, 2006; *R. laoshan* Mo, Jiang, Xie, and Ohler, 2008; *R. larissae* Ostroshabov, Orlov, and Nguyen, 2013; *R. lateralis* Boulenger, 1883; *R. malabaricus* Jerdon, 1870; *R. margaritifera* (Schlegel, 1837); *R. marmoridorsum* Orlov, 2008; *R. modestus* Boulenger, 1920; *R. nigropalmatus* Boulenger, 1895; *R. norhayatii* Chan and Grismer, 2010; *R. orlovi* Ziegler and Köhler, 2001; *R. pardalis* Günther, 1858; *R. poecilonotus* Boulenger, 1920; *R. pseudomalabaricus* Vasudevan and Dutta, 2000; *R. reinwardtii*; *R. rhodopus* Liu and Hu, 1960; *R. robertingeri* Orlov, Poyarkov, Vassilieva, Ananjeva, Nguyen, Sang, and Geissler, 2012; *R. spelaeus* Orlov, Gnophanxay, Phimminith, and Phomphoumy, 2010; *R. subansiriensis* Mathew and Sen, 2009; *R. translineatus* Wu, 1977; *R. tuberculatus* (Anderson, 1871); *R. vampyrus* Rowley, Le, Thi, Stuart, and Hoang, 2010; *R. verrucopus* Huang, 1983; and *R. viridimaculatus* Ostroshabov, Orlov, and Nguyen, 2013.

**Distribution:** Distributed widely across Southeast Asia, including India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei, as well as extreme southern and southwestern China (mainly in Hainan, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Yunnan, and Tibetan Autonomous Region).

##### ***Leptomantis* Peters, 1867**

**Type species:** *Leptomantis bimaculata* Peters, 1867

**Diagnosis:** (1) Body size relatively small (SVL 30–80 mm, about 30–50 mm in most species); (2) snout pointed or obtusely pointed; (3) terminal phalanges of finger and toes Y-shaped; (4) snout projections absent, upper eyelid projections present or not, tarsal projections absent in most species; (5) dermal folds along forearm or tarsus absent; (6) skin of dorsal surfaces smooth or finely shagreened; (7) webbed fingers; (8) dorsal coloration usually light tan or reddish brown; (9) iris without “X” shaped pattern; (10) white foam nests produced by breeding pairs; and (11) distributed in maritime Southeast Asia.

**Phylogenetic definition:** *Leptomantis* includes species that share a more recent common ancestor with *Leptomantis bimaculata* than with *Zhangixalus dugritei* and *Rhacophorus reinwardtii*.

**Etymology:** The generic name derived from the Greek adjective *leptos*, meaning thin or small and Greek noun *mantis*, meaning treefrogs. We suggest the English common name of the genus to be “Slim Treefrogs”, and “Shou Shu Wa Shu (瘦树蛙属)” in Chinese. The gender of this genus is masculine.

**Content:** We currently recognized 14 species in the genus *Leptomantis* as follows: *L. angulirostris* (Ahl, 1927); *L. belalongensis* (Dehling and Grafe, 2008); *L. bimaculatus*

Peters, 1867; *L. cyanopunctatus* (Manthey and Steiof, 1998); *L. fasciatus* (Boulenger, 1895); *L. gadingensis* (Das and Haas, 2005); *L. gauni* (Inger, 1966); *L. harrissoni* (Inger and Haile, 1959); *L. malkmusi* (Dehling, 2015); *L. monticola* (Boulenger, 1896); *L. penanorum* (Dehling, 2008); *L. pseudacutirostris* (Dehling, 2011); and *L. robinsonii* (Boulenger, 1903); *L. rufipes* (Inger, 1966).

**Distribution:** Mainly maritime Southeast Asia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, The Philippines, and southern Thailand.

***Zhangixalus* gen. nov. Li, Jiang, Ren, Jiang**

**Type species:** *Polypedates dugritei* David, 1872

**Diagnosis:** (1) Body size relatively large (SVL 30–120 mm, above 50 mm in most species); (2) snout rounded; (3) snout, upper eyelid and tarsal projections absent; (4) dermal folds along forearm or tarsus absent; (5) terminal phalanges of finger and toes Y-shaped; (6) skin of dorsal surfaces smooth, or scattered with small tubercles; (7) webbed fingers; (8) dorsal coloration green in most species; (9) iris without “X” shaped pattern; (10) white foam nests produced by breeding pairs; and (11) distributed in eastern Asia and northern Indochina.

**Phylogenetic definition:** Genus *Zhangixalus* gen. nov. includes species share a more recent common ancestor with *Zhangixalus dugritei* than with *Leptomantis bimaculata* and *Rhacophorus reinwardtii*.

**Etymology:** The generic nomen of *Zhangixalus* gen. nov. is named after Dr. Ya-Ping Zhang, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Sciences, for using his family name “Zhang”, and *ixalus*, a common generic root for treefrogs. Dr. Zhang has contributed greatly to the promotion and development of biodiversity and evolutionary studies in China, and we acknowledge his support and encouragement to us, especially for Li’s rhacophorid study. We suggest the English common name of the new genus as “Zhang’s Treefrogs”, and “Zhang Shu Wa Shu (张树蛙属)” in Chinese. To avoid possible confusion with regard to administration and conservation in China, we also suggest the Chinese common name of each species remains unchanged, which consistent with previous usages, e.g. *Zhangixalus dugritei* (宝兴树蛙). The gender of this genus is masculine and is named by Jia-Tang Li, Ke Jiang, Jin-Long Ren and Dechun Jiang.

**Content:** We currently recognized 36 species in the genus *Zhangixalus* gen. nov. as follows: *Z. achantharrhena* (Harvey, Pemberton, and Smith, 2002) **comb. nov.**; *Z. arboreus* (Okada and Kawano, 1924) **comb. nov.**; *Z. arvalis* (Lue, Lai, and Chen, 1995) **comb. nov.**; *Z. aurantiventris* (Lue, Lai, and Chen, 1994) **comb. nov.**; *Z. burmanus* (Andersson, 1939) **comb. nov.**; *Z. chenfu*

(Liu, 1945) **comb. nov.**; *Z. dennysi* (Blanford, 1881) **comb. nov.**; *Z. dorsoviridis* (Bourret, 1937) **comb. nov.**; *Z. duboisi* (Ohler, Marquis, Swan, and Grosjean, 2000) **comb. nov.**; *Z. dugritei* (David, 1872) **comb. nov.**; *Z. dulitensis* (Boulenger, 1892) **comb. nov.**; *Z. feae* (Boulenger, 1893) **comb. nov.**; *Z. hongchibaensis* (Li, Liu, Chen, Wu, Murphy, Zhao, Wang, and Zhang, 2012) **comb. nov.**; *Z. hui* (Liu, 1945) **comb. nov.**; *Z. hungfuensis* (Liu and Hu, 1961) **comb. nov.**; *Z. jarujini* (Matsui and Panha, 2006) **comb. nov.**; *Z. leucofasciatus* (Liu and Hu, 1962) **comb. nov.**; *Z. lishuiensis* (Liu, Wang, and Jiang, 2017) **comb. nov.**; *Z. minimus* (Rao, Wilkinson, and Liu, 2006) **comb. nov.**; *Z. moltrechti* (Boulenger, 1908) **comb. nov.**; *Z. nigropunctatus* (Liu, Hu, and Yang, 1962) **comb. nov.**; *Z. omeimontis* (Stejneger, 1924) **comb. nov.**; *Z. owstoni* (Stejneger, 1907) **comb. nov.**; *Z. pinglongensis* (Mo, Chen, Liao, and Zhou, 2016) **comb. nov.**; *Z. prasinatus* (Mou, Risch, and Lue, 1983) **comb. nov.**; *Z. prominans* (Smith, 1924) **comb. nov.**; *Z. puerensis* (He, 1999) **comb. nov.**; *Z. schlegelii* (Günther, 1858) **comb. nov.**; *Z. smaragdinus* (Blyth, 1852) **comb. nov.**; *Z. suffry* (Bordoloi, Bortamuli, and Ohler, 2007) **comb. nov.**; *Z. taipeianus* (Liang and Wang, 1978) **comb. nov.**; *Z. viridis* (Hallowell, 1861) **comb. nov.**; *Z. wui* (Li, Liu, Chen, Wu, Murphy, Zhao, Wang, and Zhang, 2012) **comb. nov.**; *Z. yaoshanensis* (Liu and Hu, 1962) **comb. nov.**; *Z. yinggelingsensis* (Chou, Lau, and Chan, 2007) **comb. nov.**; *Z. zhengkaiyae* (Pan, Zhang, and Zhang, 2017) **comb. nov.**

**Distribution:** Occurs in southern and southwestern China mainly, as well as the southern Japan, southern slope of Himalayas, and northern part of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam.

**Comparison:** *Zhangixalus* gen. nov. differs from *Rhacophorus* by the absence of dermal folds along limbs and tarsal projections (vs. present), the absence of supracloacal fold (vs. present or not); differs from *Leptomantis* by the relatively larger body size (SVL 30–120 mm, above 50 mm in most species vs. SVL 30–80 mm, within 30–50 mm in most species), rather rounded snout (vs. snout pointed), the absence of tarsal and upper eyelid projections (vs. tarsal projections, upper eyelid projections present or not), and different dorsal coloration (mostly green vs. light tan or reddish brown); differs from *Buergeria* by having “Y” shaped phalange (vs. absent); differs from *Theloderma* by relatively smooth dorsal skin (vs. dorsal surfaces with developed tubercles); differs from *Kurixalus* by the absence of prominent tubercles on outer edge of tarsus (vs. present); differs from *Nasutixalus* by the absence of a pale “X” shaped pattern on iris and raised canthus rostralis (vs. a pale “X” shaped pattern on

iris and the raised canthus rostralis present); differs from *Polypedates* by webbing between fingers (vs. no web); differs from *Taruga* by the absence of snout and tarsal projections (vs. snout projection or tarsal projections present); differs from *Chiromantis*, *Feihyla*, and *Liuixalus* by the larger body size (SVL 30–120 mm, above 50 mm in most species vs. SVL below 40 mm in most species); and differs from *Beddomixalus*, *Mercurana*, *Nyctixalus*, *Philautus*, *Pseudophilautus* and *Raochestes* by the different reproductive modes (foam nests produced by breeding pairs vs. without foam nests).

Although the taxonomic statuses of the three well-supported and highly diverged lineages of *Rhacophorus sensu lato* were preliminarily solved herein, numerous lineages within this species-rich group still remained understudied (Chan *et al.*, 2018). For example, the generic placement of a further deeply divergent clade that includes *Z. achantharrhena*, *Z. dulitensis*, and *Z. prominans* within genus *Zhangixalus* requires further study. The clade that includes *Z. achantharrhena*, *Z. dulitensis*, and *Z. prominans* was recovered as the sister-group of all the remaining species of *Zhangixalus*, which can be diagnosed readily from latter clade in the presence of dermal folds along limbs and tarsal projections (vs. absent). The three species in this clade also differ from *Rhacophorus* and *Leptomantis* by a suit of morphological characters, including body relatively small, SVL 36–50 mm, the presence of dermal folds along limbs, well-developed supracloacal folds, the presence of tarsal projections and green dorsal coloration. However, we cannot evaluate the taxonomic status of *Z. achantharrhena*, *Z. dulitensis*, and *Z. prominans* due to unavailable material, and tentatively assign them as members of genus *Zhangixalus*, pending further study.

#### Key to the genera of *Rhacophorus sensu lato*

In the absence of a key to all genera of Rhacophoridae, morphological diagnosis of some genera should be defined in the further study. Following the new taxonomic arrangement in this work, the diagnostic key to all genera of *Rhacophorus sensu lato* was provided, which including three genera, i.e. *Rhacophorus sensu stricto*, *Leptomantis*, and *Zhangixalus* **gen. nov.**

- 1 Dermal folds along limbs present.....*Rhacophorus*
- Dermal folds along limbs absent.....2
- 2 Tarsal projections absent; body size relatively moderate or large, SVL 30–120 mm (mostly above 50 mm); dorsal coloration mostly green; eastern Asia and northern Indochina distributed.....*Zhangixalus* **gen. nov.**
- Tarsal projections present or not; body size relatively

small, SVL 30–80 mm (mostly within 30–50 mm); dorsal coloration mostly light tan or reddish brown; Maritime Southeast Asia distributed.....*Leptomantis*

Lastly, for the lack of both molecular and morphological data, the taxonomic status of “*Rhacophorus*” *edentulus* Müller, 1894, “*Rhacophorus*” *georgii* Roux, 1904, and “*Rhacophorus*” *turpes* Smith, 1940 remains uncertain. The unavailability of further materials for certain species hampers further taxonomic work. Possible misidentifications, undescribed new taxa, and non-monophyly of some species also reflect the need of continuous taxonomic analyses on this group (Chan *et al.*, 2018).

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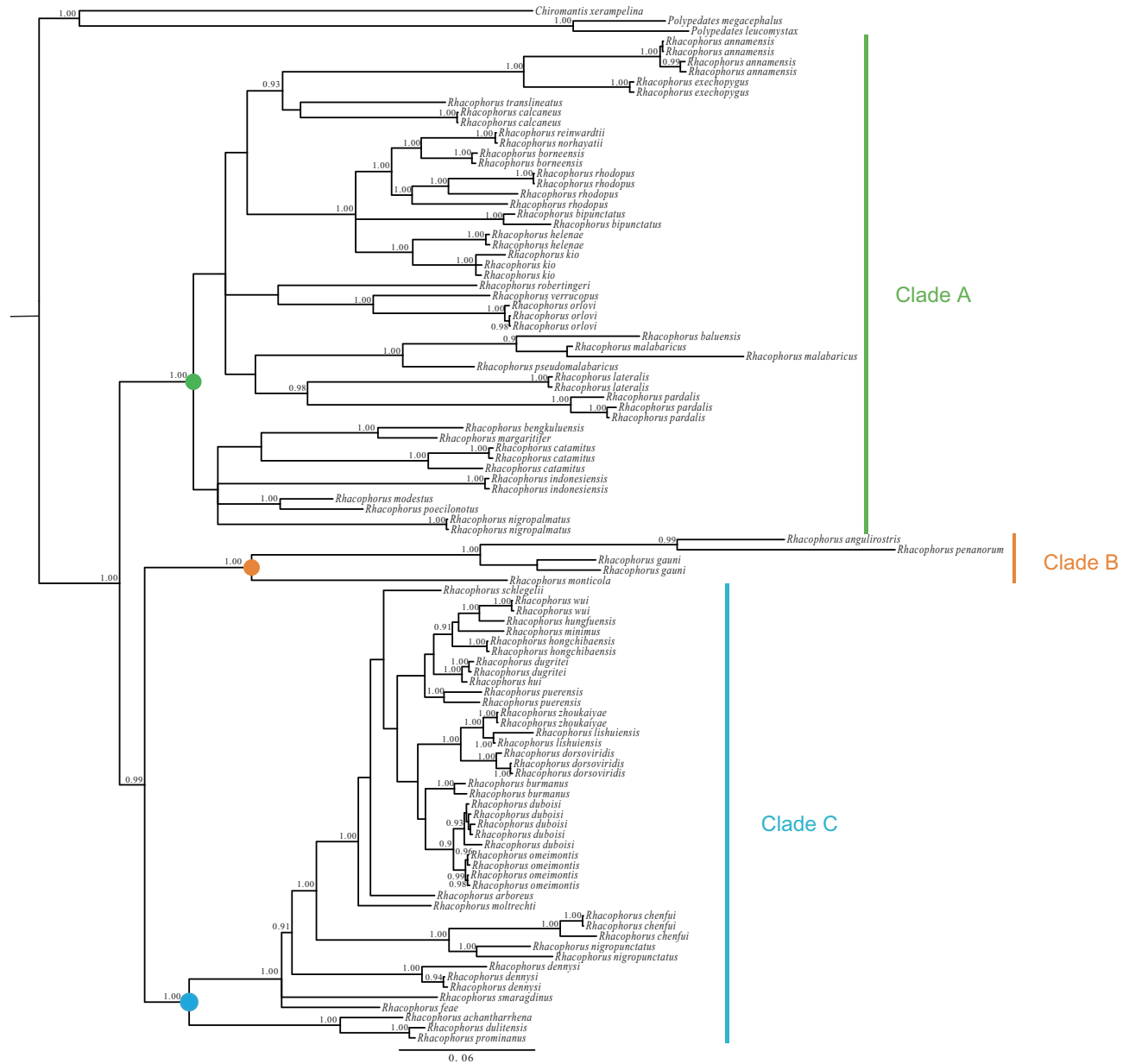
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## Appendix



**Figure S1** Bayesian phylogenetic relationships of species of *Rhacophorus*, based on three mitochondrial genes: 12S rRNA, tRNA-val and 16S rRNA. Circles on nodes correspond to three clades: Clade A (green), Clade B (orange), Clade C (blue). Numbers beside the nodes are given as Bayesian posterior probabilities (BPP) ( $\geq 0.90$  retained).

**Table S1** Samples, with sampling site, museum voucher nos., and GenBank accession Nos. of corresponding sequences. “-” represents missing data.

Taxon	Locality	Voucher Number	GenBank accession Nos.
<i>Chiromantis xerampelina</i>	-	CAS uncatalogued	AF458132
<i>Polypedates leucomystax</i>	Myanmar: Chatthin	USNM GZ 33881	AB728168
<i>Polypedates megacephalus</i>	-	MM Pm	AF458141
<i>Rhacophorus achantharrhena</i>	Indonesia: Sumatra	ENS 14757	KX398867
<i>Rhacophorus angulirostris</i>	-	GenBank	AF215360
<i>Rhacophorus annamensis</i>	Vietnam	AMNH A161414	DQ283047
<i>Rhacophorus annamensis</i>	Vietnam	FMNH 253934	GQ204768
<i>Rhacophorus annamensis</i>	Vietnam: Ta Kou Mountain Natural Reserve	KIZ 1196	JX219446
<i>Rhacophorus annamensis</i>	Vietnam: Bu Gia Map National Park	KIZ 64	JX219448
<i>Rhacophorus arboreus</i>	Japan	TTU-R-11748	AF458142
<i>Rhacophorus baluensis</i>	Malaysia: Sabah	FM235958	KC961239
<i>Rhacophorus bengkuluensis</i>	Indonesia: Sumatra, Lampung	UTA A-62770	KM212948
<i>Rhacophorus bipunctatus</i>	Myanmar: Bee Hoe village, Chin State	CAS 235303	JX219444
<i>Rhacophorus bipunctatus</i>	Myanmar: Putao District, Kachin State	CAS 229913	JX219445
<i>Rhacophorus borneensis</i>	Malaysia: Sabah, Maliau Basin	BORN:22410	AB781693
<i>Rhacophorus borneensis</i>	Malaysia: Sabah, Maliau Basin	BORN:22411	AB781694
<i>Rhacophorus burmanus</i>	China: Mt. Gaoligong, Yunnan	SCUM 060614L	EU215537
<i>Rhacophorus burmanus</i>	China: Motuo, Xizang	RAO 6239	JX219422
<i>Rhacophorus calcaneus</i>	Vietnam: Bi Doup National Park	KIZ 528	JX219450
<i>Rhacophorus calcaneus</i>	Vietnam: Bi Doup National Park	KIZ 746	JX219451
<i>Rhacophorus catamitus</i>	Indonesia	ENS 7657	JF748387
<i>Rhacophorus catamitus</i>	Indonesia	ENS 7662	JF748388
<i>Rhacophorus catamitus</i>	Indonesia: Sumatra	ENS 14726	KX398877
<i>Rhacophorus chenfui</i>	China: Mt. Omei, Sichuan	SCUM 060404L	EU215534
<i>Rhacophorus chenfui</i>	China: Zhaotong, Yunnan	RAO ZT 0806013	JX219431
<i>Rhacophorus chenfui</i>	China: Mt. Omei, Sichuan	Li 05	JX219432
<i>Rhacophorus dennysi</i>	Vietnam	MNHN 1440K	AY880611
<i>Rhacophorus dennysi</i>	China: Shaoguan, Guangdong	SCUM 060401L	EU215545
<i>Rhacophorus dennysi</i>	China: Taoyuan, Hunan	Li06	JX219433
<i>Rhacophorus dorsovireidis</i>	Vietnam: Sa Pa, Lao Cai	ROM38015	JX219423
<i>Rhacophorus dorsovireidis</i>	China: Jinping, Yunnan	RAO060821200	JX219424
<i>Rhacophorus dorsovireidis</i>	China: Pingbian, Yunnan	YN080446	JX219425
<i>Rhacophorus duboisi</i>	China: Mt. Dawei, Yunnan	SCUM 061104L	EU215536
<i>Rhacophorus duboisi</i>	China: Jinxiu, Guangxi	RAOYN080492	JX219412
<i>Rhacophorus duboisi</i>	Vietnam: Sa Pa, Lao Cai	ROM 38771	JX219413
<i>Rhacophorus duboisi</i>	Vietnam: Sa Pa, Lao Cai	ROM 38758	JX219414
<i>Rhacophorus duboisi</i>	China: Jinping, Yunnan	RAOL060821289	JX219415
<i>Rhacophorus dugritei</i>	China: Hongya, Sichuan	SCUM 051017L	EU215540
<i>Rhacophorus dugritei</i>	China: Baoxing, Sichuan	SCUM 051001L	EU215541
<i>Rhacophorus dulitensis</i>	Malaysia	RAO081201	JX219434
<i>Rhacophorus exechopygus</i>	Vietnam	RH 06085	GQ469980

(Continued Table S1)

Taxon	Locality	Voucher Number	GenBank accession Nos.
<i>Rhacophorus exechopygus</i>	Vietnam: Gia Lai	VNMN:4107	LC010585
<i>Rhacophorus feae</i>	China: Hekou, Yunnan	SCUM 050642WXJ	EU215544
<i>Rhacophorus gauni</i>	-	GenBank	AF215362
<i>Rhacophorus gauni</i>	Malaysia: Sarawak, Bintulu Division	FMNH273928	JX219456
<i>Rhacophorus helenae</i>	Vietnam	UNS:00451	JQ288090
<i>Rhacophorus helenae</i>	Vietnam	ZFMK:92544	JQ288091
<i>Rhacophorus hongchibaensis</i>	China: Wuxi, Chongqing	CIB 097696	JN688882
<i>Rhacophorus hongchibaensis</i>	China: Wuxi, Chongqing	CIB 097687	JN688883
<i>Rhacophorus hui</i>	China: Zhaojue, Sichuan	Li01	JN688878
<i>Rhacophorus hungfuensis</i>	China: Wenchuan, Sichuan	SCUM 060425L	EU215538
<i>Rhacophorus indonesiensis</i>	Indonesia	MZB:Amp:23619	AB983367
<i>Rhacophorus indonesiensis</i>	Indonesia	MZB:Amp:23626	AB983368
<i>Rhacophorus kio</i>	Vietnam	Genbank	AF215188
<i>Rhacophorus kio</i>	Vietnam	Genbank	AF458147
<i>Rhacophorus kio</i>	China: Xishuangbanna, Yunnan	SCUM 37941C	EU215532
<i>Rhacophorus lateralis</i>	India: Mudigere	RBRL 050709-35, 36, 37	AB530548
<i>Rhacophorus lateralis</i>	India: Bygoor, Karnataka	SDB.2010.330	KC571277
<i>Rhacophorus lishuiensis</i>	China: Lishui, Zhejiang	YPX52658	KY653717
<i>Rhacophorus lishuiensis</i>	China: Lishui, Zhejiang	YPX47791	KY653718
<i>Rhacophorus malabaricus</i>	India: Madikeri	GenBank	AB530549
<i>Rhacophorus malabaricus</i>	India	GenBank	DQ346957
<i>Rhacophorus margaritife</i>	Indonesia: Java	ENS 16162	KX398889
<i>Rhacophorus minimus</i>	China: Mt. Dayao, Guangxi	KIZ 061214YP	EU215539
<i>Rhacophorus modestus</i>	Indonesia: Sumatra	ENS 16853	KX398904
<i>Rhacophorus moltrechti</i>	China: Lianhuachi, Taiwan	SCUM 061106L	EU215543
<i>Rhacophorus monticola</i>	Indonesia: Sulawesi	RMB 1236	AY326060
<i>Rhacophorus nigropalmatus</i>	Malaysia	Genbank	JX219437
<i>Rhacophorus nigropalmatus</i>	Malaysia	RAO081203	JX219438
<i>Rhacophorus nigropunctatus</i>	China: Longling, Yunnan	RAO 3496	JX219428
<i>Rhacophorus nigropunctatus</i>	China: Weining, Guizhou	GZ 070658	JX219430
<i>Rhacophorus norhayatii</i>	Malaysia: Johor, Endau Rompin	NNRn	AB728191
<i>Rhacophorus omeimontis</i>	China: Pengxian, Sichuan	SCUM 0606137L	EU215535
<i>Rhacophorus omeimontis</i>	China: Zhanotong, Yunnan	ZT 0806010	JX219419
<i>Rhacophorus omeimontis</i>	China: Yaan, Sichuan	Li 02	JX219420
<i>Rhacophorus omeimontis</i>	China: Mt. Omei, Sichuan	SC 080505	JX219421
<i>Rhacophorus orlovi</i>	Vietnam	AMNH A161405	DQ283049
<i>Rhacophorus orlovi</i>	China: Maguan, Yunnan	RAO 03309	JX219435
<i>Rhacophorus orlovi</i>	China: Maguan, Yunnan	LJT R44	KC465840
<i>Rhacophorus pardalis</i>	Malaysia: Kota Marudu District, Sabah	FMNH 235741	JX219452
<i>Rhacophorus pardalis</i>	Malaysia	FMNH 231366	JX219453
<i>Rhacophorus pardalis</i>	Malaysia: Bintulu Division, Sarawak	FMNH 273243	JX219454
<i>Rhacophorus penanorum</i>	Malaysia: Sarawak	ZRC 1.12116	JN377350

(Continued Table S1)

Taxon	Locality	Voucher Number	GenBank accession Nos.
<i>Rhacophorus poecilonotus</i>	Indonesia: Sumatra	ENS 16480	KX398920
<i>Rhacophorus prominanus</i>	Indonesia: Sumatra	ENS 16994	KX398925
<i>Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus</i>	India: Kadalar, Kerala	SDB.2011.1010	KC593855
<i>Rhacophorus puerensis</i>	China: Puer, Yunnan	SCUM 060649L	EU215542
<i>Rhacophorus puerensis</i>	Vietnam: Sa Pa, Lao Cai	ROM 37996	JN688891
<i>Rhacophorus reinwardtii</i>	Malaysia	Rao081205	JX219443
<i>Rhacophorus rhodopus</i>	China: Mengyang, Jinghong	SCUM 060692L	EU215531
<i>Rhacophorus rhodopus</i>	China: Longchuan, Yunnan	Loc 08007018	JX219439
<i>Rhacophorus rhodopus</i>	China: Lvchun, Yunnan	Lc0805109	JX219440
<i>Rhacophorus rhodopus</i>	China: Motuo, Xizang	RAO 06245	JX219441
<i>Rhacophorus robertingeri</i>	Vietnam: Gig Lai	VNMN:4123	LC010613
<i>Rhacophorus schlegelii</i>	Japan	KUHE 26251	AY880615
<i>Rhacophorus smaragdinus</i>	China: Motuo, Xizang	RAO 6241	JX219411
<i>Rhacophorus translineatus</i>	China: Motuo, Xizang	RAO 6237	JX219449
<i>Rhacophorus verrucopus</i>	China: Motuo, Xizang	6254 RAO	JX219436
<i>Rhacophorus wui</i>	China: Lichuan, Hubei	CIB 097690	JN688880
<i>Rhacophorus wui</i>	China: Lichuan, Hubei	CIB 097685	JN688881
<i>Rhacophorus zhoukaiyae</i>	China: Dabie Mountains, Anhui	AHU-RhaDb-150418-02	KU601494
<i>Rhacophorus zhoukaiyae</i>	China: Dabie Mountains, Anhui	AHU-RhaDb-150418-03	KU601495